

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-20

DRC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 TAR-02

/181 W

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R 131220Z MAR 74

FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6572

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLASS EC BRUSSELS 1520

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: INCREASE IN FRENCH RETAIL MILK PRICES

REF: PARIS 5938

1. THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DECISION TO INCREASE RETAIL PRICE CEILINGS FOR FRESH MILK (REFTEL) INCLUDED AMBIGUOUS LANGUAGE IMPLYING THAT THIS DECISION ALSO ENTAILED AN UNCLASSIFIED

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INCREASE IN THE TARGET PRICE FOR MILK IN FRANCE.

2. AS NOTED IN THE REFTEL, THE EC COMMISSION WAS "SHOCKED" BY THE AMBIGUOUS FRENCH ANNOUNCEMENT. THE FRENCH ANNOUNCEMENT WAS INITIALLY INTERPRETED IN PRESS REPORTS TO MEAN THAT FRANCE HAD UNILATERALLY INCREASED THE MILK TARGET PRICE WHICH CAN BE LEGALLY CHANGED ONLY BY COMMUNITY ACTION. ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH ACTION WAS LATER EXPLAINED TO ENTAIL ONLY AN INCREASE IN FRENCH RETAIL MILK PRICES, THE COMMISSION NEVERTHELESS FELT OBLIGED TO ISSUE A CLARIFYING STATEMENT.

3. IN THIS STATEMENT, THE COMMISSION FIRST POINTED OUT THAT FRANCE WAS ENTITLED TO INCREASE RETAIL PRICES BECAUSE COMMUNITY REGULATIONS DO NOT GOVERN THE LEVEL OF THESE PRICES. THE COMMISSION THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE MILK TARGET PRICE IS ESSENTIALLY DETERMINED BY THE LEVELS OF THE INTERVENTION PRICES FOR BUTTER AND SKIM MILK POWDER. THE FRENCH ACTION DOES NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE LEVEL OF THESE PRICES WHICH WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF FORTH-COMING DISCUSSIONS OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU01520
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: EAGR, FR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005